वय को अंत में नहीं, शुरू में देना चाहिए मैं इस बात को इसलिए कह रहा हूं कि आपने शुल्क बढ़ाकर देश और जनता के साथ ही अन्याय नहीं किया है बल्कि आपने संसद की भी अवमानना की है और संविधान और लोकतंत्र की प्रक्रिया की आपने धज्जियां उड़ाकर रख दी है । इसी सदन में कुछ दिन पहले जब स्टैंडिंग कमेटीज के बारे में हम विचार कर रहे थे और यह विचार आया था कि जो भी स्टैंडिंग कमेटीज हैं उनमें बहस होगी और बहस के बाद जो उनकी मान्यता होगी, उनके अनुसार सरकार कार्यवाही करने के लिए किसी-न-किसी रूप में बाध्य होगी। अभी स्टैंडिंग कमेटीज की बैठकें चल रही हैं, लेकिन आपने सभी चीजों के शुल्क बढ़ा दिए, इसका मतलब क्या हुआ ? इसलिए मैं एक निवेदन करना चाहता हूं और सीधे आपसे पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या आप सदन को विश्वास में लेकर, लोकतंत्र की मर्यादाओं का पालन करते हुए, संविधान और सदन के लिए निर्धारित प्रक्रिया के अनुसार काम करते हुए आपने यह जो अभी शुल्क बढ़ाने का प्रस्ताव रखा है क्या इसे आप अभी विड्रा कर रहे हैं या आप इसे लागू करेंगे ? अगर आप विड्रा नहीं करते हैं तो भले ही मैं अपने को इस सदन का छोटा-सा सदस्य मानूं, मैं सदन की कार्यवाही नहीं चलने दूंगा क्योंकि हम यहां यह अन्याय बर्दाश्त करने के लिए नहीं आते हैं कि गरीब जनता को चूसा जाए। आप एक ओर तो 54 हजार करोड़ की बात करते हैं कि हम ग्राम-पंचायतों में यह पैसा लगा रहे हैं और दूसरी तरफ आप हर चीज में चाहे वह रेलवे हो या दूसरी हो, शुल्क बढ़ा देते हैं । कभी तो आप बजट के पहले बढ़ा देते हैं और कभी बजट के बाद बढ़ा देते हैं, कभी सदन के चलते बीच में बढ़ा देते हैं, आखिर इस माखौल का अर्थ क्या है ? इसलिए मैं अपनी ओर से सरकार से क्लैरीफिकेशन में यही जानना चाहता हूं कि इतनी बातें सुनने के बाद, जन-प्रतिनिधियों की भावनाओं को जानने के बाद और आप जानते हैं कि बाहर आपकी साख किस तरह से गिरती जा रही है, इस बात को समझते हुए भी आप इसे वापिस लेते हैं या मेरे जैसे लोग जोकि इन बातों को अच्छी तरह से समझते हैं, इसके टुकड़े-टुकड़े कर के हम इसे यहीं पर आपके सामने प्रस्तुत करते हैं ?

यही मेरा क्लैरीफिकेशन है ।

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

(I) The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment BUI, 1992.

(II) The Cine-workers Welfare Cess (Amendment) BUI, 1993.

(III) The Copyright (Second Amendment) Bill, 1992.

SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir, I have to report to the House the following messages received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha :—

(1) —

"I am directed to inform you that the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 1992, which was passed by Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st July, 1992, has been passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 19th April, 1993, with the following amendments :—

Enacting Formula

1. Page 1, line 1,—

for "Forty-third"

substitute "Forty-fourth"

Clause 1

2. Page 1, line 4,—

for "1992" *substitute* "1993"

I am, therefore, to return herewith the said Bill in accordance with the provisions of rule 121 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha with the request that the concurrence of Raya Sabha in the said

i amendments be communicated to Lok Sabha".

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Cine-workers Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill, 1993, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th April, 1993.

The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India."

(HI)

I am directed to inform you that Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on the 21st Apriil, 1993, has adopted the following motion extending the time for presentation of the Report of the joint Committee of the Houses on the Copyright (Second Amendment) Bill, 1992 :—

MOTION

"That this House do further extend up to the last day of the Monsoon Session 1993, the time for presentation of the report of the Joint Committee on copyright (Second Amendment) Bill, 1992 further to amend the Copyright Act, 1957."

Sir, I lay a copy each of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 1992 and the Cine-workers Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill, 1993 on the Table.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

TELECOM TARIFFS—Contd.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM : Sir, I want to ask one direct question. Almost all the hon. Members have spoken on this issue. Now, the Parliament is in Session. The Standing Committees are meeting in accordance with their own convenience. There is no room for the Minister to make this statement and to increase the tariff. So, I wish to know directly from the Minister whether he gives an assurance that he will not increase the tariff, as ! proposed, from 1st May, 1993 but will send this matter to the Standing Committee. I want an assurance from the Minister.

SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD (Andhra Pradesh) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, it is really very surprising that the Minister has come out with this statement. As far as I know, the Parliament discusses two Budgets, i.e. the General Budget and the Railway Budget. Perhaps it might be the intention of the Minister to introduce a third budget in the parliamentary system. Otherwise, there was no room for him to make this type of statement. It is simply arbitrary and belittles the newly innovative system of the department-related Standing Committees. Why were these Standing Committees constituted ? Perhaps the Minister must have forgotten what the Prime Minister had said, what the Chairman of this House had said and what the Speaker of the Lok Sabha had said before constituting these Committees. Is it not unfair ? Why did he not consult the Consultative Committee before taking such a decision of raising Rs. 740 crores in a span of one year ? I think people are not in a position to bear this burden and they will be very angry. In view of this the Minister is bound to say whether he wants to withdraw this decision or pursue with it. The services, rendered by the Telecom Department, I am sorry to say, are really of very poor quality, particularly in rural areas. No connection is available if you want to talk to villages. There are many villages like that. I myself wrote many letters to the concerned authorities and to the Minister also. In towns, if there is rain, there will be disconnection. If there is heavy wind, there will be disconnection. Besides that there is wrong metering, wrong number, etc. Instead of improving these services, why has the Minister come out with the statement of raising Rs. 740 crores ? This is not service-related and this is not development-related. There may be some improvement.

I can say there is improvement. But that is not commensurate with the needs of the people, expectations of the people. Lastly, I would like to say that this is day-

light robbery. The Government has to think twice or thrice before proceeding with this type of thing. I request the Minister first to withdraw this statement and then consult the Consultative Committee and also the newly constituted Standing Committee on Telecommunications. After thorough discussion in those two Committees let the Minister come forward and say what is the opinion of these Committees and what is the alternative before the Government.

The Railway Minister has also increased the tariff to the extent Rs. 1800 crores. Even before this Budget the Government has increased the prices of many essential commodities. The Commerce Minister was trying to increase exports to earn foreign exchange.

This measure is going to increase the cost of production and make it a high cost economy. How can we compete in the foreign market ? All the measures that have been announced by the Government—the Railway Minister, the Finance Minster and now the Communications Minister—increase the inflationary rate and make the economy a high cost economy. By doing this our productivity will also go down and our level of competition in the inernational market will also go down. The telecom facilities are used in trade and commerce and also in industries. Therefore, I request the Minister to withdraw it and come forward with an alternative proposal which would not tax the poor and the common man. Thank you.

श्री वीरेन्द्र कटारिया (पंजाब) : वाइस चेयरमैन साहब, जो डिपार्टमेंटल रिलेटिंग स्टैंडिंग कमेटियां बनाई गई हैं, मैं कम्युनिकेशन डिपार्टमेंट की स्टैंडिंग कमेटी का मैम्बर हूं । आज ही मुझे . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . .

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : आप ही के लिए हम लोगों ने अभी कहा है ।

श्री वीरेन्द्र कटारिया : मुझे आज ही रिमाइंडर मिला है कि 28 तारीख को इस स्टैंडिंग कमेटी की मीटिंग है । मुझे बड़ी हैरत है इस बात की कि जब आपने सात सौ करोड़ रुपए का इजाफा पहले ही कर देना है तो फिर स्टैंडिंग कमेटी की मीटिंग का फायदा ही क्या है ?

Parliament is in session. Meetings of the Standing Committees are going on and I have not heard of an increase of Rs. 700 crores outside the Budget. This is a new thing.

It must be related to efficiency and improvement in the department.

डिपार्टमेंट की फैसिलिटी का तो यह हाल है कि मेरा जो कांस्टीच्यूएंसी का टेलीफोन है, जो कि चंडीगढ़ शहर में, जो कि पंजाब और हरियाणा का दारूल खलाफा है और यू. टी. है, मेरा कांस्टीच्यूएंसी का टेलीफोन एक हफ्ते से खराब पड़ा हुआ है और मेरी बार-बार रिक्वेस्ट करने के बावजूद आज तक उस टेलीफोन को किसी ने ठीक करने की जरूरत महसूस नहीं की । एक बात और बताना चाहूंगा मैं कि कौनसी फैसिलिटी टेलीफोन डिपार्टमेंट की है ।

I hail from Abohar. I was there for the last four to five days. I tried my level best to contact Ferozpur, my District headquarters, but I could not get it. I tried to contact Chandigarh; I could not get it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Mr. Kataria, you have to seek clarifications on the statement.

श्री वीरेन्द्र कटारिया : जो फैसिलिटी है, जो कंज्यूमर का हक बनता है, उसमें आप सुधार करिए और उसके बाद अगर आप सात सौ पचास करोड़ रुपए से भी ज्यादा इजाफा करना चाहें तो डिपार्टमेंटल कमेटी में लाइए और इसको करिए

the law of increasing returns applies.

एक चीज और कहना चाहता हूं कि बहुत कम इण्डस्ट्रीज ऐसी हैं जिनमें ला आफ

इन्कौजिंग रिटर्न्स एप्लाई करता है । कम्यु-निकेशन की मिनिस्ट्री ऐसी है कि इसमें ला आफ इन्कौजिंग रिटर्न्स एप्लाई करता है । इसका जितना विस्तार होगा, जितनी कालें ज्यादा होंगी, इसका खर्चा उतना ही कम होगा । इसलिए मैं नहीं समझता कि यह जस्टिफाई करता है ।

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Bihar) : Sir, I was pre occupied with the Business Advisory Committee and I did not know that such a bombshell was being dropped in this House. It is only when I came here and went through the statement that I realised to my shock what the hon. Minister for Communications was proposing. Sir, it is a fact that the parliamentary procedure in terms of the Minister going to the Standing Committee to get its clearance has not been followed. I am also surprised that such a massive proposal of raising Rs. 740 crores is being done without any adequate consultation, it appears to me, even at the department's level. I mean there is nothing here in the statement of the Minister to indicate that it has received serious consideration even in his Ministry. Normally in a Department like the Telecommunications, even if you want to raise Rs. 40 crores or Rs. 50 crores, the committee of officials goes into it. They look at various trade-offs and alternatives and then make a suggestion. Here, the Minister does not take us into confidence to say as to what input has gone into it. He merely says, "It has not been revised since 1990. So, we are going to revise it." And there is a kind of revision that has been done. Now, the point that I am making is that when the Government considers its proposals on the financial side, there is the Budget, the General Budget and the Railway Budget. The General Budget includes the budget of the Telecommunications and the Postal Departments also. That is the stage at which these proposals are considered in great detail. If 1 have any knowledge of the functioning of the Government of India, I would like to say with all the authority at my command that that is the stage at which these proposals are considered by the two concerned Ministries, namely, the Department of Posts and *the* Finance Ministry. Now, the General Budget has been presented. We have all been informed by the hon. Finance Minister that massive concessions in regard to customs duty and in regard to other duties have been given in the General Budget. There is the general feeling of well-being in this country which has been created because of the concessions which have been given in the General Budget and suddenly this comes when Parliament is in Session. Rs. 740 crores for the Telecommunications Department is unthinkable. It is mind-boggling. It is something which I cannot stomach. I find it extremely difficult to accept the situation. Rs. 740 crores are being raised in one sweep by the Ministry of Communications. What has the Government come to? Why didn't they take a comprehensive view of things when they were presenting or prepeiring the General Budget ? It is also my information—I would like the Minister to clarify this point—that as far as the telecommunication sector, including telephones, is concerned, it is not running in a loss. Generally, it is the Postal Department where because of the concessions that you have given such as post cards, inland cover, envelopes, etc. you incur loss and that is a loss because of certain social obligations that you assume. Now, in this country, when we are on the verge of the 21st century, would the Minister tell us that this telephone, the STD facilities, the fax facilities and all that are a luxury?

When we are giving concessions on all kinds of things such as the air conditioner, refrigerator, colour T.V., on telephones, we are increasing the charges like this. What is the comprehensive view of the Government? If the hon. Communications Minister is not in a position to answer this, let him not answer it; let him go back, consult with his Cabinet colleagues, consult with the Government and then come back. We would not like the Government to take a sectoral view. We would like the Government to take a total view. As the other Members have said,

this is totally unacceptable. I would like to tell the Government, through you, Sir, not to pick up a confrontation with the Opposition and with their own Members. This is something which you should not do. You are, by acting in this manner, picking up an unnecessary confrontation. You are spoiling the atmosphere in which you have been working in this Parliament. Don't for God's sake, destroy that understanding that we have. Don't destroy the comradeship. Don't destroy the goodwill that you have. Don't forget that you are still in a minority. You are in a minority in that House. You are in a minority in this House. And the day when we put out act together, you will not be able to get a single thing passed through Parliament. So, please be cautious in your approach. Don't take Parliament for granted. Don't take this House for granted. Please, for God's sake, consider your proposals very, very carefully. I support the demand of the other Members. There is no point in seeking clarifications on this. This is not a statement on which you can seek clarifications. This is a regular Budget of the Telecommunications Department which should be approved by Parliament. It cannot be just a statement of the Minister making an announcement. Therefore, it will be in the fitness of things if the Minister kindly withdraws this statement and says that this will not *be* discussed. And as the Congress Member himself has suggested, let this go to the 28th meeting of the Standing Committee. Let this matter be discussed in great detail and let the considered proposals come before the House for our approval and not for our information. Thank you.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, before I come to the rates, I want to request the Minister to see that the instrument on my table works. If it works, the anguish of many Members including Mr. Yashwant Sinha will be diminished. I compliment the Minister, for he has given us certain assurances also. If he fulfils them, at least some heart-burning will get lessened. In the light of the mounting costs, the Telecommunications Department has to be self-sufficient. That is one reason. Increasing connectivity, improving reliability, enlarging accessibility, if these are really going to happen, even Sinhaji will stomach to some extent. Unfortunately, what happened. . . *(Interruptions)* . . .

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It cannot be stomached.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : This heart-burning situation exists because of the difficulties we are facing with the communication system. In Delhi, it is good.

AN. HON. MEMBER : Not even in Delhi.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : every time. . . *(Interruptions)* .. .

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA :' Mr. Joshi, you are an urbanite and I am a ruralite. When I compare it to my place, Delhi is better placed. That is why, I am giving a comparative picture. My telephone in Delhi does not go out of order. But the two telephones in my rural place do not interconnect. . . *(Interruptions)* Don't laugh, I am giving a comparative picture. That is the difficulty. During the last Session, while speaking on the Telephone Department, I had urged this. From 101 to 200 kilometres, your rate is Rs. 25/-I exactly stay at 2000 kilometres away but may accounting division is 270 kilometres away. So, on every trunk call I make, I have to pay for 70 kilometres extra. I had brought this to the notice of Shri Rajesh Pilot when he was the Communications Minister. When I saw this statement, I just wanted to say this again. What we speak in Parliament is not taken seriously by the Department. Last item, I had brought this to the notice of the Minister. 1 stay exactly 200 kilometres away from Bangalore. Whenever I book a call to Bangalore, any subscriber booking a call from my place, Chitradurga, has to pay for 70 kilometres extra because the accounting office is situated in Devangere, which is 70 kilometres away. Why should the subscribers be asked to pay for this 70 kilometres extra?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Try to conclude.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : Instead of Rs. 25/-, I have been asked to; pay Rs. 30/-, Rs. 50/-. That is why, these disparities are to be removed. Last time, it was announced that Group Dialling ' would come. That has not come in my place. Actually, what has happened is, 50 per cent of the telephone centres have been converted into electronic system and the other 50 per cent has remained in the old system. In my place, Chitradurga, they will not be interconnected. Telephone numbers starting from 4000 onwards *will* not be connected with numbers from 2000 onwards. I have two telephones with numbers 2679 and 4242 and they will not be interconnected. The Chief General Manager says, you wait till the building is constructed'. Then, why have you converted?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Kindly conclude now.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : I am not complaining, but I want to bring to the notice of the Minister what is happening in the rural areas.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Right.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : I want only to improe the system. Just yesterday, 1 had to tell the SDOP that I would be forced to lead a delegation to his office if this system continues like this. When you ask for something more, it is the duty of the Department to improve the system. With these expectations and hopes, f support the statement.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Shri Vishvjit P. Singh.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH (Maharashtra) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, while I do not want to hold any brief for the Telephone Department and I am a sufferer like anybody else, I would like the Minister to give only one clarification because I have a slight doubt in my mind. In his statement, he has said that the rates have not been revised from 1990. I would like to know one thing from the hon. Minister because I have a sneaking suspicion in my mind that this is the reason why the increases have come. I want to know from, the honourable Minister whether the various increases that have been made over the-last twenty years have been in tandem, with the rate of inflation and if they are-not, what the differential is and also,. whether the new rates that they are going to change will keep their position all right *of* they will still fall short.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Yes, Mr. Minister.

श्री सुख राम : वाइस चेयरमैन महोदय, मैंने पहले जो यहां स्टेटमेंट के जरिए . . .

श्री मुरली मनोहर जोशी : पहले यह बता दीजिए कि आप इसको स्टैंडिंग कमेटी के पास भेजेंगे या नहीं ? आप इसको विड्रा कर रहे हैं या नहीं ? एक ही सवाल है इसका जवाब दीजिए ?

Are' you going to withdraw it or not ? That is the basic question... *(Interruptions)* . . ,

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Kindly let the Minister answer... *(Interruptions)*...

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : The basic question that has been raised today is this . . . *(Interruptions)* . . . Kindly listen . . . *(Interruptions)* . . . We want an answer only to this question. Your own Member has said that it is not being referred to the Standing Committee. Why?... *(Interruptions)*... Are you prepared to withdraw it or not ? ... *(Interruptions)* . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Let the Minister answer.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Sir, I am on a point of order. . . *(Interruptions)*... I am on a point of order... *(Interruptions)* ...

THE VICE-CHIARMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : The Minister has not replied as yet. Where is the question of any point of order ?... *(Interrup tions)*... ...,,

श्री सुख राम : मैंने आप सभी सदस्यों को ध्यान से सुना । आपको भी मुझे सुनना

चाहिए । यह कोई पार्लियामेंटरी परम्परा नहीं है कि आप तो अपनी बात कह लें और मंत्री को आप न सुनें । मैं आपसे एक बात कहना चाहता हूं कि यहां पर जो आब्जेक्शन उठाया गया कि इसको बजट में क्यों नहीं रखा, बजट के बाहर क्यों रखा और इतनी धनराशि को चोर दरवाजे के माध्यम से इकट्ठा किया जा रहा है तो मैं इसके बारे में यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि हमने इसके टैरिफ के रिवीजन के बारे में वित्त मंत्रालय को पहले ही भेज दिया था और जो मिनिस्ट्री की डिमाण्ड है, जो इसमें तकरीबन 860 करोड़ की आमदनी दिखाई गई है वह पहले ही इसमें शामिल है । यह स्टेटमेंट को लेकर मुझे पहले ही पार्लियामेंट में आना था लेकिन मैं यह वर्कआउट करता रहा कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में कितनी सुविधा देनी चाहिए । इसलिए देरी हो गई ।

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : Sir, I am on a point of order... *{Interruptions)* ... I am on a point of order.. . *(Interruptions)* . . .

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal) : I am on a point of order... *(Interruptions)* . ..

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Sir I am on a point of order. Please this to this.

You see, this is the strangest thing that I have ever heard in this House. The honourable Minister tells us that it is a part of the Budget and yet it is not a part of the Budget and that he has been thinking over it after putting it in the Budget If it is in the Budget, then let it be discussed in the Budget discussion itself. Why two things separately ? The Budget gives us one privilege in Parliament in the sense that we have a right to approve or disapprove while an announcement does not give that privilege. This Parlia, ment is responsible and the Government is responsible to the Parliament to get all its Demands approved. Therefore, I would doubly urge : Let him withdraw this and let the Budget be discussed and in the Budget discussion we will deft With it separately.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : You say that this is a part of the Budget and yet you also say that it is not a part of the Budget. *(Interruptions)* . . .

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Has the Finance Minister said that he was going to raise it in the Budget ? It is going to net in a revenue of Rs. 740 crores. Has he mentioned, has the Finance Minister mentioned it?... *(Interruptions)...*

श्री सुख राम : अगर आप पूरी बात सुनेंगे नहीं, अधूरी बात सुनेंगे और फिर गुस्सा होकर बात करेंगे तो इससे कोई बात बनने वाली नहीं है । (व्यवधान)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Sir, I am on a point of order... *(Interruptions)* .. .

Mr. Minister. I am on a point of order... *(Interruptions)* . . .

Sir, just now the Minister said that this tariff increase proposal was sent to the Ministry of Finance for incorporation in the Budget. It is on record. Just now, in your presence, he has said that.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : He cannot revise it. . . *(Interruptions)...*

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: He has said that he was calculating all these things and because of this there was some delay. It means he could not incorporate them in the Budget. For that matter, the ; Minister of Communications could not | get them incorporated in the Budget. He : wanted to incorporate it in the Budget. . .

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : ; Without applying his mind!

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Yes, without i applying bis mind and without calculating in the meantime. He was having a pro-posal which was to be included in the Budget or which, for inclusion in the i Budget, was sent to the Ministry of Fin- ance and which could not be incorporated in the Budget because there was some delay. That is why he has got it as a statement.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH: It is a totally Wrong interpretation. SHRI DEPEN GHOSH: He can thing

it as a Supplementary Budget. That is different.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : He is misleading the House.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : My second point is. . .

SHRI SUKH RAM : Let me make it clear.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Mr. Minister, my point of order has not yet been disposed of. Please take your seat.

SHRI SUKH RAM ; Let me make it clear.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : The second point is that we have introduced the Committee system. You are also a part of that system. Sir, you are a member of that Committee. I do not know whether you have been made the Chairman of any Committee in the meantime. But here are the rules. The rules have been accepted by the Parliament wherein it has been stated that the functions of those Committees include among other things Demands, then policy, then working, etc. And those Committees are in session. And this has not yet been sent to that Committee also before coming to the Parliament.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : It is a part of the Budget. It must go there.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH ; It should have gone there.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It is unconstitutional.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH ; It is completely an affront to Parliament, an affront to Parliamentary system, an affornt to Committee system. So, he must withdraw it. We cannot get it passed like this.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Now, let the Minister explain fully.

श्री सुख राम : मैं कह रहा था कि इसको जो हमारी मिनिस्ट्री की डिमान्ड है उसमें करीब 860 करोड़ रुपये इसमें आमदन दिखाई गई है, इसमें शामिल है .... (व्यवधान) । आप मेहरबानी करके सुनने की हिम्मत भी कीजिये । आपकी बात हमने सुनी है तो आप सुनने की हिम्मत भी रखिये । यह पोस्ट एण्ड टेलीग्राफ एक्ट है और आप तो बड़ी-बड़ी मिनिस्ट्रियों में मंत्री रहे हैं, बड़े-बड़े मंत्रालय आपने संभाले हैं । आपको मालूम है यह बात कि उसमें गवर्नमेंट को अधिकार है कि नोटिफिकेशन के जरिए यह टैरिफ रिवाइज कर सकती है .... (व्यवधान) ।

श्री इन्द्र कुमार गुजराल : गलत बात है ... (व्यवधान) ।

SHRI SUKH RAM : If it is a question of law. . . *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Allow him to speak.

SHRI SUKH RAM : You can challenge it, if it is wrong. *(Interruptions)*

तो मैं कह रहा था कि उसमें अधिकार है । मैं चाहता, लेकिन मैंने गुनाह किया कि पार्लियामेंट सेशन में है उसमें मैंने यह किया और हाउस को कान्फीडेंस में लिया है । अगर मैं चाहता तो पार्लियामेंट के बाद भी यह नोटिफिकेशन आ सकता था ... (व्यवधान) ।

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : What is he saying ? Sir, we protest agains; this attitude. This attitude is not right. He thinks he is doing a favour. He pretends that he is doing a favour. He is saying that he is doing a favour. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Kindly allow him to speak.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, we want your ruling. Is he doing a favour to Parliament by bringing it ? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKH RAM: I realise the important of the House. I have taken the House into confidence.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : You are doing no favour to Parliament.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Let him explaia fully.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : But he i« putting his foot in his mouth.

SHRI SUKH RAM : This is your interpretation . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Let him try to convince the House.

श्री सुख राम : तो मैं कह रहा था कि मैं तो इस माननीय सदन को कान्फीडेंस में लेकर चल रहा हूं । मैंने आपके विचार सुने हैं .... (व्यवधान) ।

डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी : आप इसको बजट में लाते ।

श्री सुख राम : मैंने आपकी बात सुनी, अब आप हमारी बात भी सुनिये । अभी जैसा गुजराल जी कह रहे थे कि यह तो अरनिंग डिपार्टमेंट है और आमदन का जरिया है। यह बात मैं मानता हूं । जब आप मंत्री थे, क्या आपके टाइम में यह निर्णय नहीं हुआ था कि हिन्दुस्तान के 2 लाख 37 हजार पंचायतों को टेलीफोन दिए जाएंगे । यह तो राजीव गांधी के समय में फैसला हुआ था और आज हम कह सकते हैं कि एक लाख से ज्यादा ग्राम पंचायतों को हमने टेलीफोन के माध्यम से जोड़ा है ।

डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी : सवाल यह है कि जब स्टैंडिंग कमेटी बनी हुई है, बजट प्रपोजल डिसकस हो रहे हैं, तब यह यहां क्यों आया ? इसका आप हमें जवाब दें ।

श्री सुखराम : मैं आपको जवाब दे रहा हूं ...

डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी : इसका आप जवाब दें । यह कहानी जो आप सुना रहे हैं इसकी आवश्यकता नहीं है । आप इसका जवाब दीजिये ।

श्री सुखराम : आपने जो प्वाइंट उठाया है, उस पर जवाब देने का मेरा अधिकार आप मानते हैं या नहीं मानते हैं ? तो मैं यह कह रहा था कि ....

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : The main point is basically you first created the procedure for the Budget itself, that is that you included the item in the Budget. Now your Demands, as per the instruction of the Chairman and the Speaker are going before the Standing Committee. You explain BOW why you are not going to the Standing Committee and coming here directly to make an announcement—not to get our approval but to announce.

श्री सुख राम : सर, स्टैंडिंग कमेटी का जहां तक ताल्लुक है, जैसे बाकी मंत्रालयों की डिमांड स्टैंडिंग कमेटियां देख रही हैं ... (व्यवधान) ... सुनिये बात । सुनते ही ही नहीं हैं और पहले ही बोलना शुरू कर देते हैं । तो कम्युनिकेशन की जो स्टैंडिंग कमेटी है वह डिमांड को देखने के लिये जिम्मेदार नहीं है । इसको वह डिसकस कर सकते हैं, स्टैंडिंग कमेटी का जहां तक ताल्लुक है । मगर जब बजट पेश हुआ, जो बजट बनाया गया वह स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ने नहीं बनाया, वह बजट ...

डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी : मैं आपसे यह कहना चाहता हूं कि यह सवाल नहीं है जिसकी आप बात कर रहे हैं । मैं आपसे यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि नये प्रोविजन के मुताबिक बजट को स्टैंडिंग कमेटियों के सामने जाना है । टेली-कम्युनिकेशन कमेटी बनी हुई है, उसके माननीय सदस्य ने भी कहा कि उनको यह देखकर हैरत हुई है । परसों मीटिंग होने वाली है और आप इस तरह से इसको यहां पेश कर रहे हैं, बजटरी प्रोविजन का परपज क्या है, यह मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं ।

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH : May I clarify from what I have understood from the statement of the Minister ? He had asked for a provision, within the Budget of Rs. 860 crores which was accepted by the Finance Ministry, and it become a part of the Budget proposals.. .

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It was not said that the Minister is going to raise the communication tariff*.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Why are you saying it in English, Mr. Vishvjit Singh, what the Minister said in Hindi ?

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH ; Though the provision had been made, this waft made talcing into consideration the losses suffered by the Telecommunication Department and the Budget outlays which would

be necessitated in future. The one point which had not been settled was as to which sectors would be affected by raising all this money, and those sectors have now been identified partially by the hon. Minister, and that is why... *(Interruptions).*

(DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Why Were those items not identified and what are those Departmental Committees doing ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : I can clarify only one limited point. As Mr. Yashwant Sinha knows very well, this is not a taxation. This is a tariff, and for this, a Notification could be issued. That is why, the traditional practice has been that when the Finance Minister presents the Budget, normally, in the latter part of the Budget after making all his taxation proposals, he comes with a formulation as : "Now, I shall have to speak something for my colleague in the Ministry of Communications, and these are tariff rates." But it can be done as a part of the Budget; it can be done outside the Budget. Even when the Parliament is not in session, it could be done through a Notification. So, the taxation proposals and tariffs should not be confused. That is my point.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I have a clarification to offer on what Mr. Pranab Mukherjee explained. And that is that the Finance Minister when he accepts the proposals of the Department or the Ministry that he will raise Rs. 740 crores, will mention this in his Budget speech that such additional tariff proposals will be brought forth if he does not list them out. And he will say that this much is involved; Rs. 860 crores of income would have normally accrued.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : T am, not talking about the money or the magnitude of the tariff rates. My point is limited. If you are suggesting that it should be considered as a part of the Budget proposals, had it been a taxation proposal, surely, it could have been a part of the *Budget* proposals and we can discuss it.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : No. We do not agree.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : That was the limited point I made. It can be done by notification.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : My point is simple.

OR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Were the proposals forwarded to the Ministry of Finance for inclusion in the Budget?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Rs. 860 crores is income computed for the Ministry of Communications. How does anybody know that this is going to be raised through additional tariff measures ?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Which will come later on.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Parliament has no way of knowing that this amount of Rs. 860 crores will normally accrue in the course of a year to the Ministry of Communications. How do We know unless the Finance Minister clarifies ? It should be clarified.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : If the hon. Minister says that he can raise the tariffs without coming to Parliament, he is free to do so. Then, why is he coming to Parliament ?

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I have great respect for Mr. Pranab Mukherjee for his intelligence, his sharpness and deep insight. But I raised a totally different point. What we are concerned about is this. The Demands of all the Ministries have been consigned to the various Committees. I am the Chairman of one Committee of which my hon. friend, Mr. Mukherjee, is the Minister. In our Committee, we are considering all his Ministry's Demands, etc. In due course, we will give our report. All other Committees are doing it likewise. This Committee in relation to Communications is also there. It is meeting the day-after-tomorrow. My point here is, the hon. Minister has scant respect for the Parliamentary Committee. This is also an insult to Parliament. He does not go to that Committee. Instead of that, he comes and tells us here that he wanti to increase the tariffs. Is he obliging us by coming to us? Therefore,

1 say that this should first be cleared by the concerned Committee because this was the idea of setting up these Committees. He missed that vital point. That is the basic point that concerns us. The hon. Minister has no right to avoid that Committee.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Let him answer that point.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (.West Bengal) : What point ? *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Let the Minister reply.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Mr. Mukherjee said that this was not a taxation proposal, but a tariff increase, and, therefore, it need not come as a part of the Budget proposals. We understand this. It was rightly pointed out by him, which the Minister of Communications could not. For this, we must express our thanks to the Commerce Minister and the ex-Finance Minister. But Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee should appreciate this point. It was said that even if there was Session, under the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Act, Government, by notification can raise the tariffs. Now, Parliament is in Session and the various Standing Committees are in Session. I say this is an affront to Parliament and to the Committees. If they can do it like this, what for have we constituted these Committees ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V, NARAYANASAMY) : Let him answer that point.

SHRI SUKH RAM : Sir. I have not done anything new.

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जैसे वी. पी. सिंह जी ने, विश्वजित सिंह पृथ्वीजित सिंह जी ने, वेलनोन वी. पी. सिंह जी ने अंग्रेजी में कहा, मैं केवल एक पाइंट इसमें रखना चाहता हूं कि सुख राम जी आपका नाम तो सुख राम है और काम कर रहे हैं दुख दान का । (व्यवधान)

श्री सुख राम : आप सुनेंगे तो सुख मिलेगा।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि आपके जितने कलीग हैं कांग्रेस पार्टी के अधिकतर लोगों ने इस बात को अच्छी तरह से समझते हुए यह कहा कि जब स्टैंडिंग कमेटी की बैठक चल रही है तो

डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी : हम तो बहुत अच्छा जवाब चाहते हैं हां या न में । हमारा सवाल है कि आप अपने इस प्रोपोजल को विस्टैंडिंग कमेटी जो कम्युनिकेशन मिनिस्ट्री की है उसको भेज रहे हैं या नहीं । बस हां या न में जवाब दे दीजिए ।

श्री सुख राम : मैं फिर निवेदन करता हूं कि यह कोई टैक्स नहीं है सर्विस चार्ज है और मैंने यह कोई नयी बात नहीं की है . . (व्यवधान) आप सुन लीजिए ।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : हम सुनना ही नहीं चाहते हैं ।

श्री सुख राम : आपको पसंद नहीं हो तो (व्यवधान)

डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी : आप इस सवाल का जवाब दे दें कि आप कमेटी में जा रहे हैं कि नहीं जा रहे हैं । इस क्वेश्चन का जवाब दे दें . . . (व्यवधान) सिर्फ इस सीमित प्रश्न का उत्तर पंडित जी हम चाहते हैं आपसे कि आप इसे कम्युनिकेशन मिनिस्ट्री की स्टैंडिंग कमेटी को रेफर कर रहे हैं या नहीं ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Mr. Joshi, kindly take your seat. The Minister is going to answer your point. You cannot prevent him from speaking.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : I am on a point of order. *(Interruptions).*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : There is a point of order. Yes, Mr. Hanumanthappa.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: The Business Advisory Committee has not decided to extend the time of the House beyond 5 O'clock. We are sitting beyond 5 O'clock. *(Interruptions).* Let the House adjourn. The Business Advisory Committee has not decided. The House has not given the permission to extend it» time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Let the Minister answer. *(Interruptions).*

श्री सुख राम : मेरा यह कहना है कि यह सर्विस चार्ज है यह कोई टैक्स नहीं है . . (व्यवधान) ।

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, we will discuss it tomorrow. Let the House adjourn.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Let us adjourn the House. We are walking out.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Adjourn the House.

[At this stage some hon. Members left the Chamber]

श्री सुख राम : मैं यह जो इसमें रिविजन हुआ है इसके बारे में माननीय सदस्यों से दोस्तों से बात करना चाहता हूं । जहां तक लांग डिस्टैंस पब्लिक टेलीफोन का है एक लाइन का हमारा एक लाख पच्चीस हजार रुपये का खर्चा है और जो दूसरी लाइनें, शहरों वगैरह में देते हैं उसमें पैंतीस हजार रुपये का एक लाइन का खर्चा है । सब ग्रामीण पंचायतों को हमने 1995 तक टेलीफोन की सुविधाएं देनी हैं । अभी जो हमारा एटथ फाइव इयर प्लान का जो लक्ष्य है, जो निशाना है जो फिजिकल टारगेट है वह 75 लाख . . . (व्यवधान) का है और इसके लिए जो हजार करोड़ साढ़े चालीस हजार करोड़ हजार करोड़ ? साढ़े चालीस हजार करोड़ रुपया हमको चाहिए जिसमें से प्लानिंग से हमें 25 हजार करोड़ रुपया मिला है जिसमें एडिशनल सेक्टर भी शामिल है । अब लक्ष्य तो हमने बड़ा रखा हुआ है । वैसे हमारे लक्ष्य हासिल नहीं हुआ है । हमने देहाती क्षेत्र में कोई वैसे नहीं हुआ है पब्लिक बूथ जो डिस्टैंस का हिसाब लगाया था, 20 किलोमीटर—50 किलोमीटर, जिसमें एक रुपया, दो रुपया चार्ज करते थे वह पचास पैसे कर दिया है और जो पब्लिक काल आफिस है उसमें जो पेरेंट एक्सचेंज है उसमें पच्चीस पैसे कर दिया है एक काल का । हमने जो ग्रामीण क्षेत्र है वहां कम किया है और कहां बढ़ाया है हमने ? हमने जो तीस हजार से ज्यादा लाइनों वाले शहर है वहां बढ़ाया है और जैसे मझको बता रहे हैं करीबन इलाहाबाद जैसे शहर भी उससे बाहर रहते हैं । इतने बड़े-बड़े शहरों को इससे फर्क नहीं पड़ता है । जो अभी रजिस्ट्रेशन फीस के बारे में बात कही गयी, यह जो हमारा आडिट, सोशल आडिट पैनल है उसकी भी रिकमेंडेशन है और जो हमारी कंसलटेटिव कमेटी है उसकी भी रिकमेंडेशन है तथा उसमें हमने किया क्या, कि 800 से हमने 2,000 किया। यह रेंटल में हम काटेंगे और उनको हमने यह भी कहा है कि जितने प्रतिशत जैसे स्टेट बैंक 11 परसेंट इंटरेस्ट देता है तो 11 परसेंट इंटरेस्ट देंगे । ओ.वाई.टी. का होगा तो 6 महीने में हमको टेलीफोन देना पड़ेगा । अगर नहीं देंगे तो 11 प्रतिशत के अलावा और 3 प्रतिशत देंगे तथा नान-ओ. वाई.टी. का 11 प्रतिशत इंटरेस्ट होगा दो साल के लिए । अगर दो साल तक नहीं दे सकेंगे तो 3 प्रतिशत उसमें और देंगे । अभी एटथ फाइव इयर प्लान में हमने जो रिसोर्स जेनरेशन का लक्ष्य रखा है वह 29 हजार करोड़ का है । मगर यह रेट कट होगा, जब 75 लाख लाइनें हम नान्थ फाइव इयर प्लान में पूरी करेंगे, तब यह होगा ।

फिर एक बात यह है कि यह ऐसा मंत्रालय है, जिसमें बजटरी सपोर्ट हम फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री से नहीं मांगते । हम तो सिर्फ अपने इंटरनल रिसोर्स जेनरेशन और उसके अलावा जो लोन है, उसके जरिए आज हम सारा एक्सपेंशन कर रहे हैं और दो हजार तक तो यह है कि सारे गांव को दे दें ।

मैं जानता हूं कि कुछ शिकायतें हैं, क्योंकि बहुत बड़ा विस्तार इसमें हुआ है और इस विस्तार में शिकायतें भी उतनी बढ़ गई होंगी, मैं इस बात को मानता हूं । अगर मैं आपको इस बात का विश्वास दिलाता हूं—मेरे नोटिस में शिकायतें लाई गई हैं,

जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य कर रहे थे--मैं पूरी कोशिश करूंगा कि वह शिकायतें दूर हों । मगर जहां करोड़ों के हिसाब से लोगों के साथ आपको ताल्लुकात हों, तो शिकायतें जरूर होंगी और हमारी कोशिश है कि इतना रुपया हमको मिले कि जो इलैक्ट्रानिक एक्सचेंज है, आज 50 प्रतिशत पर पहुंचे हैं, इलैक्ट्रानिक एक्सचेंज से डाइनैमिक लाकिंग सिस्टम की आपको सुविधा है, जिसमें ओवर-बिलिंग का प्रश्न ही नहीं पैदा होता । मगर 50 प्रतिशत हमारी जो इलैक्ट्रो-मेकेनिकल एक्सचेंजज हैं, उनको रिप्लेस करना इलैक्ट्रानिक में, उसके लिए धन भी न बढ़ायें और कुछ भी न करें और यह जो बड़े-बड़े व्यापारी हैं, उनके ऊपर जाकर यह बर्डन पड़ रहा है क्योंकि गरीबों के ऊपर नहीं है, दूसरों पर नहीं है ।

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में तो पहले ही सुविधा दी हुई थी । उनको और ज्यादा सुविधा हम देने जा रहे हैं ।

इस वास्ते मेरा आप लोगों से निवेदन है कि मैंने हाउस को इसी वास्ते कान्फिडेंस में लेकर कि माननीय सदस्यों को मालूम हो और जहां-जहां शिकायतें होंगी, मैं कोशिश करूंगा कि आपकी शिकायतें दूर हों, इसका विस्तार खूब हो, सारे हिन्दुस्तान में--आज सारे एशिया में सबसे बड़ा सिस्टम हमारा है ।

मगर आप दुनिया में सब से कम 1 प्रतिशत, एक हजार आबादी के पीछे सिर्फ सात टेलीफोन उपलब्ध हैं, जबकि अगर 2 प्रतिशत भी हमको करना है, तो सन 2000 तक अठारह बिलियन रुपये हमको चाहिएं । तब जाकर हम कर सकते हैं ।

रुपया भी चाहिए, विस्तार भी चाहिए और उसमें सुधार भी चाहिए, माडर्नाइजेशन भी चाहिए, सभी चीजें चाहिएं और उसके ऊपर अगर हम सर्विस चार्ज भी न ले सकें, क्योंकि अभी जब से यह टेलीफोन का टैरिफ बढ़ा था, पीछे पांच साल पहले, पीछे तो सुविधायें दी गईं । मगर अब से 40 प्रतिशत जो है, वह कीमत बढ़ी है । हम 11 प्रतिशत से 30 प्रतिशत पर जा रहे हैं और 30 प्रतिशत भी कौन--जो इंटरनेशनल आय-लिंग सिस्टम है, वह बाहर के लिए जो कालस जाती हैं, उसमें 50 प्रतिशत इन्क्रीज हुआ है ।

डाकी रेटल में 25 रुपये का इन्क्रीज हुआ है, पांच रुपये का इन्क्रीज हुआ है, कोई बड़ा इन्क्रीज नहीं हुआ है ।

इस बारे में निवेदन करूंगा कि माननीय सदस्यों की जो भ्रांतियां हैं, जो मेरा ख्याल है कि उस तरफ से तो उनका एक निजी प्रोग्राम था क्योंकि सुविधायें बहुत ज्यादा चाहेंगे, मगर लोगों को भी दिखाना है कि उन्होंने आपके लिए बहुत लड़ाई लड़ी है । मगर अब लोग भी जानते हैं, आज देश के लोग जागृत हैं और वह जानते हैं कि किस तरह धन का भी इंतजाम करना पड़ेगा । उस से किसी वर्ग से ज्यादती नहीं हुई है ।

तो मेरा निवेदन है कि माननीय सदस्य इसमें हमारा सहयोग करें । मुझे आपकी कोआपरेशन की पूरी आवश्यकता है और तेजी से हम इस क्षेत्र में आगे बढ़ेंगे ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) ; Mr. Rajesh Pilot to make a statement, Clarifications tomorrow.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA (Bihar) : Sir, it is too late.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : No, no. In only two minutes he will finish it.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA ; Sir, it is too late. We will lose our right to seek clarifications.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : No. Clarifications tomorrow.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Sir, he is coming with a statement on the hijack. More than hijack has already been done. There is a crash today. We want to know both together.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : One minute. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister wants to «ay something.

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन (उत्तर प्रदेश) : एयर क्रेश में सब से ज्यादा यात्री मर गये हैं ।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : Sir, may I just point out that the statement has already been made in the Lok Sabha on this issue.

If you would like to ask for the clarifications, may be they can be asked tomorrow, but I think that in keeping with the convention that in both the Houses the Statement should be made on the same day, 1 request that the Minister be permitted to make the Statement. If you would like to ask the clarifications tomorrow, then we can have the clarifications tomorrow. I think the House should have the Statement on the same day.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Clarifications to morrow, but the Minister will read the statement now.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : But there is also a statement which is due. The Minister is reading on behalf of his colleague, the Civil Aviation Minister. In view of what has happened today, I think, another St:»tement is due from the Civil Aviation Minister. So, why one statement tomorrow ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Let this matter be finished within two minutes.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Crash of Indian Airlines Plane at Aurangabad in Maharashtra

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : Sir, with a very heavy heart I share a very sad information with the House that today at 1305 hours, IC-49, which is Delhi-Jaipur-Udaipur-Aurangabad-Bombay bound flight, took off from Aurangabad and immediately after take-off -one preliminary report has come—one of its engines is reported to have caught fire and it crash-landed. It crashed at Auran-gabad near the airfield carrying 112 passengers on board. *(Interruptions)* I am just sharing the information about the crash, not the hijack. The Statement on hijack I will make afterwards. I thought I should keep the House informed with whatever information we have rceived about the accident. The preliminary report, which has been received in the Civil Aviation Ministry is that six crew members and twelve passengers were immediately seen coming out of the accident site. And when the rescue operation started 40 dead bodies were recovered. This was round about 5 o'clock. The Civil Aviation Minister with the Secretary. Civil Aviation and Tourism, has rushed to Aurangabad and he will come back and will give further details to the House. I have also to say that if we get any immediate information, we will keep informing both the Houses—Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha— about the casualties.

In addition, on behalf of my colleague, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, the Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism, I make a statement on the incident of 24th April, 1993, about the hijack of IC-427.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight IC-427 Delhi—Srinagar on ?.4th April, 1993

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : Hon'ble members are aware of the hijack of Indian Airlines flight IC-427 on 24th April, 1993.

The flight took off from Delhi at 1357 hrs. for Srinagar. At 1443 hrs. a message was received by Air Traffic Control, Delhi, that the plane had been hijacked and was heading for Kabul. A passenger on board, who identified himself as Syed Salauddin, claimed that he was carrying pistols and a hand grenade and demanded that the flight be taken to Kabul. Air Traffic Control of Lahore refused to permit the aircraft to enter Pakistan airspace. The aircraft ultimately landed at 1520 hrs. at Amritsar where the hijacker kept the entire crew and passengers hostage and demanded refuelling so that the aircraft may proceed to Kabul. 141 persons were on board;